

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, MILI

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL IN DECEMBER

1. ADMIRAL STEINHAUS (FMOD-PLANNING STAFF) GAVE US A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON FRG PLANS FOR THE EUROGROUP MEETING IN DECEMBER MEETING PRIOR TO THE DPC MINISTERIAL. GERMAN PLANNING IS NOT YET FINAL, BUT HE THOUGHT THE PRINCIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE MEETING WOULD LIKELY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.

2. EUROPACKAGE. MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL LIST OF NEW EQUIPMENT ITEMS FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENTS TO BE ADDED TO WEAPONS AND ARMS INVENTORIES IN 1974. STEINHAUS DID NOT WANT TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE EXPECTED PACKAGE, BUT INDICATED EUROGROUP MEMBERS HOPED TO PRODUCE AN "IMPRES-SIVE" LIST, AT LEAST THE EQUAL OF THE DECEMBER 1972 EUROGROUP EFFORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FRG IS NOW VENTILATING A PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE A LOW COST-NO COST

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SECTION IN THE PACKAGE.

3. ARMS COOPERATION. IN LINE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO WIDEN THIS SECTOR OF EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES, THE FRG HOPES TO INCLUDE ABOUT 20 ARMS OR WEAPONS COOPERATION PROJECTS IN THE NEXT REPORT. STEINHAUS REMARKED THE GERMANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING A SHIFT OF ANY ARMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OUT OF EUROGROUP INTO A WEU FORUM, DESPITE OCCASIONAL PRESSURES FROM THE FRENCH TO DO SO.

4. EUROTRAINING. STEINHAUS THOUGHT THAT DURING 1973 MORE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN COMMON TRAINING PROGRAMS THAN ANY OTHER EUROGROUP SECTOR. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE RECENT OTTAWA MEETING ON EUROGROUP TRAINING PROGRAMS, THE DECEMBER REPORT WILL REVIEW 1973 PROGRAMS AND PROPOSE NEW ONES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

5. EUROLOG. A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IS EXPECTED TO BE AGREED UPON IN TIME FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING.

6. NEW CHAIRMAN FOR 1974. THE GERMANS ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE TANASSI TO RECOMMEND A SUCCESSOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN THE FRG VIEW, THE BEST SELECTION MAY BE BELGIAN MOD VANDIN BOEYNANTS, BUT THE GERMANS ARE RELUCTANT TO PUSH THIS CHOICE TOO VIGOROUSLY AND HOPE TANASSI WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE SHORTLY.
HILLENBRAND

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